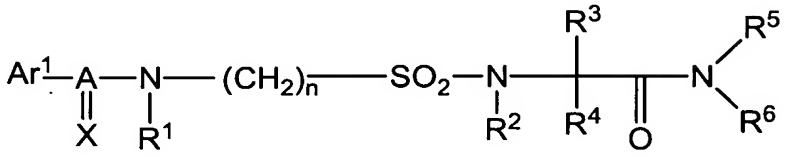
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Sulfonyl~~ A sulfonyl amino acid ~~derivatives~~ derivative according to formula I



I

with its geometrical isomers, in an optically active form as enantiomers, diastereomers, as well as in the form of racemates, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Ar^1 is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with one or more substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;

Ar^2 ~~are independently from each other substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl~~ is unsubstituted thienyl or thienyl substituted with one or more substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;

X is O or S;

R^1 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group, or R^1 ~~could~~ may form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated fused ring with Ar^1, or R^2 and R^4 form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered saturated or ~~non-saturated~~ unsaturated ring;

R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group;

n is ~~an integer from 0 to 5~~ 1;

R^3 and R^4 are both hydrogen ~~independently from each other selected from the group comprising or consisting of natural amino acid residues or synthetic amino acid residues, hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, NH_2, SH, thioalkyl, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted 4-8-membered cyclic alkyl, optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy, whereby at least one of R^3 and/or R^4 must be an amino acid residue~~;

R^5 is H or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^6 is selected from the group ~~comprising or~~ consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-aliphatic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted saturated cyclic C_4-C_8-alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with an aryl or an heteroaryl; or R^6 is a substituted aryl, ~~or~~ unsubstituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl, or unsubstituted heteroaryl,

~~whereby~~ wherein said aryl or heteroaryl groups ~~are~~ may be ~~optionally~~ substituted with substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, ~~like~~ trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-

alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy~~; or~~

~~R^5 and R^6 taken together could form a substituted or unsubstituted 4-8-membered saturated cyclic alkyl or heteroalkyl group;~~

~~with the proviso that if Ar^1 is a 4-chlorophenyl, while Ar^2 is thienyl, X = O, n = 1, the residues R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are H, R^4 shall not be methyl or (4-hydroxy-phenyl)ethyl, and R^2 shall not be propyl while R^1, R^3, R^5 are H, R^4 is methyl and R^6 is 2-methylphenyl;~~

~~with the further proviso that if Ar^1 is a 4-chlorophenyl or a 2,4-bischlorophenyl residue, while Ar^2 is phenyl, X = O, n =1, the residues R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 are all H and R^6 is CH_2-CO_2CH_3; R^4 shall not be selected form the group consisting of H, CH_3, CH_2-C_6H_4-OH-4, CH_2-CH-$(CH_3)_2$.~~

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein

R^5 is H; and R^6 is a C_1-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by an aryl, an heteroaryl group or an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, ~~whereby~~ wherein said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, ~~like~~ trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Sulfonyl~~ The sulfonyl amino acid ~~derivatives~~ derivative according to claim 7, wherein R^6 is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 which is selected from the following group:

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-{[2-({5-nitropyridin-2-yl}amino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-amino]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

N-({5-[({2-[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}amino)-sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide, or

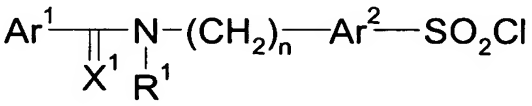
4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-oxo-2-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}ethyl)amino]-sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~ comprising at least one sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient ~~thereof~~.

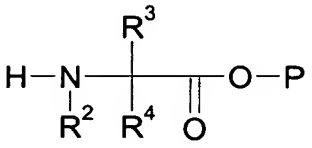
Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of ~~a~~ the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 comprising ~~or consisting of the steps of~~:

a) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



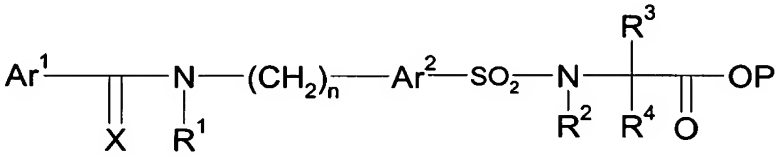
V

b) reacting ~~it~~ the sulfonyl compound V with the protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

~~thus leading to a~~ to obtain compound IX



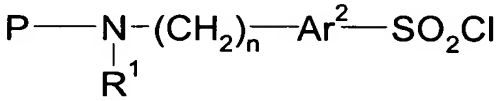
IX

c) ~~said~~ deprotecting compound IX ~~is subjected to a deprotection~~ and finally

d) ~~a~~ coupling.

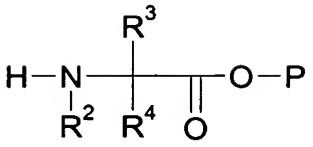
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, comprising ~~or consisting of the steps of~~:

a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



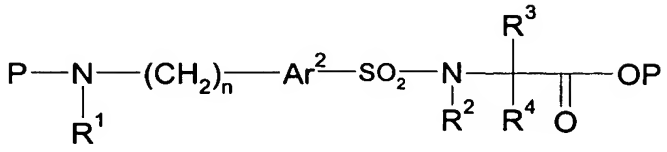
VII

b) reacting ~~it~~ the sulfonyl compound VII with the protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

~~thus leading to a~~ to obtain compound X



X

e) followed by ~~deprotection~~ deprotecting;

f) coupling;

g) ~~deprotection~~ deprotecting, and

h) acylation.

Claims 20-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to Claim 1, which is 4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide.

Claim 30 (New): A method comprising

administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a mammal.

Claim 31 (New): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered orally.

Claim 33 (New): A method comprising

administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a human in an amount effective for modulating the JNK pathway.

Claim 34 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a neuronal disorder selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, retinal disease, spinal cord injury, and head trauma.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having an automimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, and transplant rejection.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having breast cancer, colorectal cancer, or pancreatic cancer.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of stroke arterosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and myocardial reperfusion injury.

Claim 38 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered in an amount effective for decreasing the production of IL-2.

Claim 39 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is a chloro-phenyl group and Ar^2 is an unsubstituted thienyl group.

Claim 40 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen.